

In – Fur – Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

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Our Motto: *All The News We Get, We Print!*

Summer,



Image c. 2004, Dreamworks Animation/PDI

"I'm sorry, but the role of Annoying Talking Animal has been filled!" [Donkey, to Puss-in-Boots, in *Shrek 2*]

Southern California saw the birth of a brand new furry convention, and a CGI film has been setting records all over the place. Want to know more? Then read on, dear furry fan...

Coming on like... well, an ogre! Simply put, *Shrek 2* has been breaking records since the moment it arrived in theaters. Check this: Highest opening weekend for an animated film ever; highest single-day box office ever (\$44 million on its second day); fastest rise to \$200 million for any film, ever; fastest rise to \$300 million for any film ever... and so forth. At that rate, the film quickly rose above *Finding Nemo* to become the highest-earning animated film of all time, and there's no slowing down in sight. In fact, as of this writing *Shrek 2* seems to be the only summer film that's showing some real legs. Word is already out that Dreamworks is fast-tracking not only *Shrek 3* but *Shrek 4* for production.

None of this, of course, helped out *Garfield*. Despite the power-house casting of **Bill Murray** as the voice of the famous feline, the film sat very poorly with the public and the critics. Oh well – The DVD still comes out this October.

In theaters now is a trailer for Dreamworks' next CGI project, *Shark Tale*, coming to theaters in early November.

[Most likely intended to go head-to-head with the Pixar CGI film *The Incredibles*, which unfortunately doesn't feature any furry characters that we know of.] *Shark Tale* follows the story of a hip fish named Oscar, who tries to get ahead (or at least survive) in an ocean run by the fierce shark mafia. When the son of a local mob boss is killed, Oscar manages to take the credit for it and make himself look like a hero – only later finding out the price is higher than he thought. The film features the voices of **Will Smith**, **Renee Zellweger**, **Robert DeNiro**, **Jack Black**, **Angelina Jolie**, **Martin Scorsese**, and **Peter Falk**.

More films currently in production: *Open Season* is the first full-length animated CGI feature from Sony Animation. The animated film is set to feature the voices of **Martin Lawrence**, **Ashton Kutcher**, and **Debra Messing**, with Lawrence voicing Boog, a domesticated grizzly bear, who teams up with Elliot (Kutcher), a mule deer, when the two are stranded in the woods during hunting season [<http://movieweb.com>]. The humor of *In the Bleachers* cartoonist **Steve Moore** inspired the film, and he will be a co-executive producer [www.animated-news.com].

On the horizon: www.scriptsales.com is a great place to find out about properties that various studios have optioned for film deals, and various scripts that have actually been bought. Here's a few items of furry interest that turned up recently: *The Wainscott Weasel!* by children's writer **Tor Seidler** (creator of *A Rat's Tale*) has been bought by 20th Century Fox. **Chris Wedge** and Blue Sky (*Ice Age*) are set to make the film, and Seidler himself is working on the script. *Zoom's Academy for the Super Gifted* is based on the black & white comic book series by **Jason Lethcoe**, published by Astonish Comics (home of *Herobear & The Kid*) about an unusual young girl who finds herself at a school for young superheroes. Revolution Studios acquired the rights to produce this likely live-action feature.

In *The Tiger's Apprentice*, based on a children's adventure trilogy by **Lawrence Yep**, a young Chinese-American boy hooks up with a tiger spirit to fight evil – a tiger who can assume a human shape, that is. Miramax is producing the film. Meanwhile, *Opus* (based on **Berke Breathed's** *Bloom County* and *Outland*, of course) has been optioned by Dimension Films. No word yet on when and how they plan on actually producing the film. Over at Disney they've optioned *Chet Gecko*, based on the children's book series by **Bruce Hale** about a reptilian fourth-grader who solves mysteries. Vanguard Films acquired the rights to make this CGI film as part of a four picture deal with Disney. Take a look at www.vanguardfilms.com/chetgecko for more information. Also at Disney, **Chris Sanders** (*Mulan*, *Lilo & Stitch*) has been pegged to write the upcoming animated

film *An American Dog*. No word yet on if he's to direct it as well, so keep your eyes on the Internet for more news. Meanwhile, check out Ain't It Cool – they've got an exclusive look at development art and a plot description for *American Dog* at <http://aintitcool.com/display.cgi?id=18156>. Also in the Disney pipe: *Pooch's Heffalump Movie* (due in February, 2005) has the silly old bear learning a thing or two about his honey-stealing nemesis. Plus there's *The Wild*, a new feature film in the works about the lives of animals at the zoo after it closes – and what happens when one of them ends up in a package being shipped to Africa by mistake. [A good place to find out lots of info on Disney films new, old, and upcoming is <http://homepage.usask.ca/~js142/movielist.htm>. Also, check out <http://wdfananimation.tripod.com/FutureFilms.>]

Not one but several web sites have previews of the upcoming Dreamworks CGI TV series *Father of the Pride*. Try this one: www.aetv.com/tv/shows/pride. And be prepared to watch them this September on NBC. (It premieres August 31.)



c. 2002 NBC / Dreamworks

<From Disney Magazine:> "New on Disney Channel is Disney's *Brandy & Mr. Whiskers*, which stars a pampered Palm Beach pooch who crash-lands in the Amazon rain forest with a half-baked rabbit harboring a checkered past. Executive Producer **Russell Marcus** calls his creation a cross between *The Odd Couple* and *Gilligan's Island*." You heard it here, furs.

Kaze, Ghost Warrior, the CGI short film by ex-Disney animator **Timothy Albee** (Episode One of a series) has been released on DVD, and is already picking up several reviews and notices. Check out www.kazeghostwarrior.com to find out about purchasing a copy. While you're at it, check out the Animwatch web site (www.animwatch.com) for more information on numerous independent animation projects from around the world: Like *Delgo* from Atlanta, GA, and *Renart the Fox* from Luxembourg. And many more.

Another independent animation project: *The Spirit Bear* is a new CGI film with a special purpose. Profits from the film

will be put to work purchasing critical bear habitat for preservation. The story of the film follows Mokee, a young 'spirit bear' (albino black bear) who's become separated from his mother and who enlists the help of an outcast wolf to find her. **Kevin Richardson of The Backstreet Boys** is providing music for the film. Check out www.spiritbearmovie.com for more information.

Anime to look out for: *Angel Tales*, the first collection of episodes on DVD, available now from Bandai Entertainment. Unlucky young Goro has always had an affinity for animals, and especially fond memories of the pets who died when he was very young. One day, three mysterious and magical young ladies enter his life, claiming to be his guardian angels. But why do they seem so familiar...?

Comic artist **Christina Hanson** (aka **Smudge**) has released a pair of computer-animated full-color 2-D short films on DVD. *Ebin & May*, based on a comic book of the same title, is an anthropomorphic fantasy tale of love and dating. The DVD also features *Yote Tail*, based on a Native American story. You can find the DVD through Radio Comix, or direct from Backbreaker Studios at www.backbreaker.com.

This July, look for *Windsor McCay: The Master Edition* to be released on DVD by Image Entertainment. For those who don't know it, **Windsor McCay** was the creator of *Gertie the Dinosaur* and *Little Nemo*, and one of the very first pioneers of the entire concept of film animation. The DVD features the documentary film *Remembering Windsor McCay* by the famous animation historian **John Canemaker**, as well as a complete collection of McCay's short films.

And, of course, Disney's *Teacher's Pet* feature film is being released on DVD, featuring **Gary Baseman's** distinctive (to say the least!) art style, and the voice of **Nathan Lane**. Disney's "last" (they say) 2-D animated film, *Home on the Range*, will be released on DVD this October.

Several classic anime features by **Hayao Miyazaki** are being released as double DVD sets this August by Buena Vista Home Entertainment. Chief among them for furry fans perhaps are *My Neighbor Totoro* and *Porco Rosso*. Also look for the new full-color *My Neighbor Totoro* comic mini-series (featuring stills from the film), coming this September from Viz Comics.

Of course, Disney has to get into the act too. Several recent Disney Animation feature films are being released as double DVD sets, including *Aladdin*, *Mulan*, and even *The Lion King II: Simba's Pride*. Lots of extra goodies on the second DVD in each set, of course.

In new animation going direct to DVD, Disney actually has a brand-new production in 2-D, coming out in August: *The Three Musketeers*, starring **Mickey, Donald, and Goofy** (and produced by the Disneytoon animation house in Australia). Departing from the traditional story, this version features the famous trio as a group of ne're-do-wells who long to become musketeers in the court of Queen Minnie.

Also look for the comic book adaptation to be released in August by Gemstone Publishing. Meanwhile, fans of Disney TV series and fantasy adventure stories should make sure to visit <http://crossroads.dragonmists.org/fantasy/central/gnc.html> to find out more about the release of Disney's *Gargoyles* to DVD, coming this December.

This September the *Inu Yasha* movie, *Affections Touching Across Time*, will be released on DVD. A Japanese school girl falls back through time, encountering a fox-demon who knows her – and says she killed him centuries before. Well, yes, it's furry: *Triumph the Insult Comic Dog* releases his first DVD this October. From Conan O'Brien to right in your face, for over an hour!

The August issue of *Animation Magazine* presents the Pitch Party for 2004. The idea is this: Independent animation producers are given a chance to submit an ad for a new animated show idea to a group of industry judges, and the winners are given an opportunity to actually pitch their idea to studio execs. The ideas presented run the gamut, and we've collected some of the funniest of them here as examples. Like... *Lester Flight – Penguin Secret Agent*, *Winthrop and Wally* ("a guinea pig 'Odd Couple'"), *Baboonies*, *Puppy Love* ("A boy who wants to be a dog makes a costume and starts life anew..."), *Sam Spayed, Buggin'* (young boy shrinks and befriends garden insects), *Wild Unknown* (an escaped dog dreams of becoming feral), *Leon the Liger* (and his friend, Tabitha the tiger), *Salamander Sam in Outer Space*, *The Crazy Adventures of Tye Tige*, *Mudbug* (for young kids, with a cajun theme), *Loose Fur* (a demon possesses a young boy's teddy bear), *Fanantiks*, *Sage & Zorro* (canine/feline super-heroes), *Rusty Jones*, *X-Tinctables* (young animals battle poachers and polluters), *Hyper Axis* (anthro mutant animals in outer space), *Thug Cat*, *Tales of Tillie's Dragon II*, *Gertie the Dinosaur* (an updating of Windsor McCay's character), *Courageous Crustaceans*, and *Decathalon 9* (an Olympic event that features deadly aliens). So grab the August issue of *Animation* and find out more about the entries.

Meanwhile, over at the Licensing Show... also in the August *Animation Magazine* is a report on the latest hot media things to be merchandized in the near future. Among the big ones: Silver Lining has acquired the TV and "merch" rights to the book *Dragonology*, "a visually lush compendium of dragon lore that purports to be the long-lost research of 19th Century 'dragonologist' Dr. Earnest Drake" (Check out www.dragonology.com for more info). Dreamworks had a big display of course, showing off not only the upcoming films *Shrek* and *Madagascar* [See last issue – ye Ed-Otter] but the long-awaited *Wallace & Gromit* feature film. Of course, Disney was there pushing *Chicken Little* as well. Elsewhere, it seemed like monkeys were a big deal at the show... Universal's new animation unit was showing early artwork from *Curious George*, their new 2-D (yes!) feature set for release in 2005. Directed by **Jun Falkenstein** (*The Tigger Movie*), it features the voice of **Will Farrell** as The Man in the Yellow Hat. Bardel Entertainment (home of *Silverwing*) has licensed *Emily*, based on a series of children's books by **Betty Lou Phillips** and **Sharon Watts** that follow the adventures of a mischievous young monkey. And then

there's *Riot*, which has it all: A magazine, comics, toys and action figures, an interactive web site, and more... all dedicated to a crazy chimp who's escaped from the evil clutches of the Punch Brothers Circus. You heard it here.

In honor of the new *Sly Cooper* game for the Sony PlayStation, a full-color promotional comic book has been released. *The Adventures of Sly Cooper* features three short stories with Sly, Bentley, Murray, and their arch-rival Carmelita Fox. Ask for it at your local comic book shop or gaming store.

Issue #2 of *Things to Do in a Retirement Home Trailer Park* by **Lex Talionis** writer and artist **Aneurin Nye Wright** is available now. What to do? Well, go crazy and imagine your aged dad as a rhino and yourself as a bull – with a side job as a super agent. All this and much more anthropomorphic strangeness.

Issue #2 of *Le Menagerie* by **Bernyce W. Talley** (writer and artist) is available now from Nubian Queen Comics. The story of several young humans accidentally transformed into cat-people, this issue also features a gallery of Guest art. You can find out more (including how to get copies of Ms. Talley's various tie-in mini-comics) by writing nubianqueencomics@hotmail.com.

Carpe Diem is a new black & white slice-of-life furry comic series by **Graveyard Greg**, **Redkam**, and **Vince Suzukwa**, published by Fumation Multimedia. Young gay males of several species live and learn about each other from day to day. www.fumation.com has more information.

Joshua Warrick: *Werewolf for Hire*. Now there's a title you notice, yes? It's a new black & white comic series by **Kevin Altieri** and published by Catatomic Comics (say THAT three times fast!). Joshua is a werewolf who's lived from the days of the puritans until now, using his powers to help those in need.

Animal Man creator **Grant Morrison** returns to DC's Vertigo imprint with *WE3*, a new full-color science fiction comic featuring art by **Frank Quitely**. Three household pets – dog, cat, and rabbit – are kidnapped and transformed into cyborg killing machines by ruthless government scientists. But then the animals escape, and make a break for home...

More comic greats coming back: **Doug TenNapel**, creator of *Earthworm Jim* and *Project Geeker*, is back at Image Comics with a new black & white comic one-shot, *Tommysaurus Rex*. Young Eli is distraught when his dog Tommy is killed... and then he finds a live, seemingly friendly T-Rex living in a cave behind his grandfather's house... Look for it in stores now.

Skink & Skunk, a mini-comic by the artist known as **Nathan**, follows at adventures of – you guessed it – a skink and a skunk, trying to survive the 40 days and 40 nights on Noah's ark without driving each other crazy. This black & white collection also features previews of several other family-friendly furry comic titles (all coming out, like this one, from More Funner), including *Jump & Judy*,

Rasputin, Froggies at Sea, and No Place Like Nome. Look for them on-line at www.morefunner.com.

From the Internet to the printed page, *Dandy and Company* comes to comics this October from Big Pond. Dandy is the very smart (and smart-mouthed) dog "belonging to" your average human boy. Created by **Derrick Fish**, this black & white comic can still be found on-line at www.dandyandcompany.com.

From Rat Race Comics, look for the new Hairbutt Hippo one-shot, *Soft Boiled Tales*. The hippo private eye faces strange government conspiracies in "Chariots of the Clods", plus other weird adventures coming to you in black & white by **Jason Paulos** and **Bodine Amerikah**, this October.

MU Press lets loose with *Wild #8* this September, the latest issue in their adults-only black & white furry comic series. The latest issue features romantic stories and art by **Paul Kidd**, **Taral Wayne**, **Kjartan Amorrson**, and **Zephery Hughes**, all wrapped up in a cover by **Tara**.

Radio Comix is proud to announce the return of *Havoc, Inc.* (created by **Mark Barnard** and **Terrie Smith**) to comic book shelves – and soon enough to bookstore shelves, as RC has just inked a deal for bookstore distribution of their graphic novels, starting this September. And make sure to look for *Anubis: Dark Desires #2*, featuring black & white stories of the dark Egyptian jackal-god from such artists and writers as **Heather Bruton**, **Dark Natasha**, **Frank Gembeck, Jr.**, **Diana Harlan-Stein**, **Sara Palmer** and **Terrie Smith**.

Shanda Fantasy Arts presents the new black & white mini-series *Codename: Mousetrap* by (take a breath...) **Lomax, Teruel, Beaulieu, Garcia, Gray, and Colvin**. This story of feline and murine lady bounty hunters also features cover art by *Gold Digger*'s creator, **Fred Perry**. Plus, look for the latest *Extinctioners: Tales of the Endangered*, featuring a whole herd of new furry talent playing in **Shawntae Howard's** furry superhero universe.

Animation legends **Don Bluth** and **Gary Goldman** bring us *Don Bluth's The Art of the Storyboard* in trade paperback. Learn the steps involved in breaking down a story and turning it into a full-fledged storyboard for the creation of an animated film or TV show in this one-of-a-kind, profusely illustrated textbook. Also, look for *The Animation Business Handbook* (St. Martin's Press) by business writer **Karen Raugust**. It covers everything from financing a film and getting it distributed to setting up licensing deals for merchandise and tie-in products.

The complete saga of Jeff Smith's award-winning comic *Bone* is being released in a single 1,300-page volume by Cartoon Books. In case you've been asleep the last 12 years, it goes like this: The three cartoon-like 'Bone' cousins are exiled from their native land, and travel out across unfamiliar territories encountering magic, mystery, murder... and stupid rat creatures. Grab your copy quickly, as this edition will only be available for a limited time.

Also, Devil's Due Publishing has released all six full-color issues of *Dragon Lance: The Legend of Huma* in a 160-

page trade paperback. The human knight Huma and the minotaur Kaz must use the power of the silver dragon to battle the forces of the Queen of Darkness.

In the pawsteps of *Apocalypse Meow*, more historical furies: *Swamp Fox – Birth of a Legend* is a new black & white graphic novel following the adventures of the famous American Revolutionary War hero, Francis Marion – who, in this case, really is a fox! Many other famous historical figures are on hand too, all in anthro forms, acting out the famous rebel's story. With art and scripting by **Jonathan and Lola Myers**, it's available now from Ambition Studios.

Carla Speed Speed McNeil has collected the *Finder – Mystery Date* mini-series into a single black & white trade paperback. Vary, a young prostitute working her way through college, hangs around with her best friend – a male Pomeranian who's into tight clothes. Meanwhile, she tries to deal with her crush on her two professors: A half-cyborg human, and a large dinosaurian feathered reptile.

Furry and anime reviewer **Fred Patten** (one of the brains behind the *Ursa Major Awards*) has put out a new book entitled *Watching Anime, Reading Manga*, which collects 25 years of reviews from *Animation* magazine and other publications. Published by Stone Bridge Press.

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of *Usagi Yojimbo* by **Stan Sakai**, Dark Horse Comics will release a new hardcover book, *The Art of Usagi Yojimbo*, this September. It features not only sketches and full-color cover art and posters, but also tribute drawings of Usagi himself by the likes of **Sergio Aragones**, **Jeff Smith**, **Matt Wagner** – and many more.

More graphic novels from Dark Horse: *Kong: King of Skull Island* is a new hardcover book illustrated (in full color) by **Joe Devito** and written by **Brad Strickland**, based on the original novel that inspired the first *King Kong* film. The son of the man who brought *King Kong* to New York – and disaster to the city – returns to Skull Island and makes some amazing and dangerous new discoveries. Look for it in September.

Wildstorm is releasing the *Thundercats: Hammerhand's Revenge* 5-issue miniseries as a full-color graphic novel, this September. And don't forget the *Thundercats: Dogs of War* trade paperback, also in full color and still available.

The first graphic novel from Top Shelf Productions is called *Owly*. The story of a young owl who learns many deep life lessons as he travels about his home forest, it's written and illustrated by **Andy Runtion** in a wordless storytelling style that incorporates symbols, gestures, and icons.

With *Godzilla's* 50th anniversary coming up in 2005, the merchandizing tie-ins are sure to pop up faster than the big lizard can knock 'em all down. *Godzilla on my Mind: 50 Years of the King of Monsters* by historian **William Tsutsui** will be on the shelves this October, for starts.

Outside the San Diego Comic Con this year, **Rich Shapero** was handing out advanced reading copies of his debut novel, *Wild Animus*. It's the story of a young man who,

seeking to find himself in nature, travels to Alaska – where he transforms himself into a mountain goat. The book comes out from Too Far Press this October.

On-line comics are popping up so fast it's hard to keep track, let alone try to guide you folks to the cool ones. Here's some new titles stumbled across at San Diego Comic Con: Scooter & Ferret (www.scooterandferret.com) follows the story of a smart ferret, a not-so-smart dog, and their smart-enough human friend. Several on-line titles can be found over at Metal Box Comics (www.metalboxcomics.com), including furry ones like *Sniffy* and *Northwood Meadows*. And then there's *Dirvinylac, Dragon of the Mountain Mists* (don't worry, there's no spelling tests here!) a fantasy adventure from A.T. Comics (at www.aliententacles.com). Check out www.scruffypuppies.com for information on a new furry superhero team black & white comic created by Brent J. Trembath, due this December. For the activist out there, Tom Perry (instigator of Club Veg in Australia) is the writer and artist of *Psycho Chicken*, the adventures of a mutant rooster out to defend the farm animals of the world! See him now at www.vegacentric.com.au/clubveg.htm

Realm of the Rodent is the name for a new series of highly detailed collectible figures coming out this October from Lazy Bonz. The first two figures, each 12 inches tall with accessories and backgrounds, include Cryckett the mouse and Otak the rat warrior. Find out more about the series at www.lazybonzinc.com.

Furries of the creepiest sort: Look at www.teddyscares.com to find out more about the Teddy Scares – "Once soft and cuddly, now dead and bloody" – for the toy collector in your life with unusual tastes. While you're busy with that, check out the spec script for *Roadkill Zoo: Animals run-over by college kids, raised from the dead by voodoo magic and out for revenge!* Find out when the movie will be made at www.nowaris.net/Roadkill/index.htm.

Many cool animal-themed toys, plushies, and statuary can be found on line at www.CoolAnimalStuff.com. Divided up by manufacturer and by species, they have a search engine for just the critter you're looking for.

<From www.flayrah.com> Dave Kuhn, well known artist and animator in the fur community, has started a new animation studio. Caats Studio opened on Monday, July 19th. The studio website features a cute female tiger character and announcement of work on a feature! Kuhn is a familiar face, having attended West Coast furcons for over a decade. He was even one of the early fur suit builders. [Take a look at www.caatsstudios.com for more information about the studio, and a "resume reel" of films and scenes that the current studio staff have worked on in the past. – ROR]

Obituaries

In June, furries and comic book fans the world over were saddened by the news that **Kate Worley** had lost her battle with breast cancer. She died June 6, 2004, at her home in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Among furries, Kate was best

known as the writer of *Omaha the Cat Dancer*, a comic book series created and drawn by her then-husband, **Reed Waller**. The news was especially sad coming on the heels of the news that Waller and Worley were again at work on the series. To comic buffs though, Kate was equally known as a writer for Disney Comics, DC, and Tekno Comics, working on many projects with her new husband, **Jim Vance**.

Furry Stuff still has ConFurence Stuff! The original ConFurence General Store (for ConFurcences 0 – 10) has moved to the new Furry Stuff web portal. Check them out at www.furrystuff.com to find out more – very soon, pictures of what's available will be up on-line. Three of the popular ConFurence T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black on honey-color) by **Eric Schwartz** from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by **Rachael Cawley** from CF9, and "Sydney's World" (Sydney on a colored globe on green) by **Ken Sample** from CF10. Plus, a very few of **Mitch Beiro's** colorful "Furries in Space" T-shirts remain (write for sizes available). They also still offer the *ConFurence Seven Highlights Video*, as well as the *ConFurence Eight – Music and Mirth* and *ConFurence Nine – Furries in Love highlights videos* too! And coming soon, a special combination video from CF5 and CF6! Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books from past ConFurcences! To find a complete list, visit the Furry Stuff web site, or send them an SASE at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

Looking for **NEW ConFurence Stuff**? Well, the home page for **The ConFurence Group**, home of ConFurence 2003 (www.confurence.net) is down right now, while head fur **Darrel Exline** takes stock and counts the inventory for The ConFurence Store. When he's done, you'll have plenty of opportunity to buy classic t-shirts, videos, and other goodies from the ConFurcences of the 21st Century. Keep your eyes on the web site for more details.

Help us keep up with you! So, we hear you say, how do I keep up my **Subscription to In-Fur-Nation**? We're glad you asked! A subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even more of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! It's now brought right to your doorstep **four times a year** (winter, spring, summer, and fall), and still for just a whopping **\$5.00** for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: In-Fur-Nation, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions: Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to it's full potential. For them, there's this cool old time folks on the Internet call *Snail*

Mail. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for **free!**

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite comic or book store that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of In-Fur-Nation each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! *As an alternate:* Know of any good comic review zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters! As an on-going feature, we're going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to furry animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furies mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF, and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes** too! Send hard copies to the Furry Stuff address above, or, you can email your submission to **Rod O'Riley** at mink@firstlight.net.

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking, ads in In-Fur-Nation come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, or send email to mink@firstlight.net.

(Many thanks to Previews Magazine, Animation Magazine, and all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various furry conventions out there.)

"... and now, we're sexy! [Donkey, transformed into a stallion, in *Shrek 2* (Dreamworks/PDI)]

CaliFur Zero – The Adventure Continues!

Following the end of ConFurence, furry fandom returned to Southern California with CaliFur, the brand-new furry happening created by FENEC Adventures. Con chair **Robert Johnson** and his crew had their paws full as more than 300 fur fen came back to the Atrium Hotel in Irvine (home of ConFurence 5, 6, and 7!) to have themselves a weekend of furriness. Here's a quick look back at some of the cool happenings this time around.

The Special Guests...

CaliFur Zero was pleased and proud to host **2, the Ranting Gryphon** for his first appearance in Southern California. Not only did he do his famous stand up routines and rants – not one, but several! – he even stepped in as a back-up host and auctioneer when the con was in need. What a guy! Meanwhile, the furry musicians of **Sub Level III** rocked the house – literally! – with their hard-hitting electronica and high-art visuals on Saturday night. Science Fiction author **Jefferson P. Swycaffer** joined the con Saturday as well, filling people in on all the furry characters in his novels and how to write their own. Rounding it all out was **John Cawley**, famous fur-suit maker and animation historian, who not only gave a series of lectures and how-to presentations but also helped to whoop things up at the Friday and Saturday night Fur-Suit Dances!

They Sang and Danced...

Friday night continued the SoCal tradition of the Popular Furry Filk Contest, won by **Rich Brown** for his song *Dog Heaven*, and later by the first of two Fur-Suit Dances. Saturday night saw the second, even bigger Fur-Suit Dance, and later the return of the famous Cabaret Fur le Dance to SoCal furry cons. The adults-only show for charity (this time around, raising a big contribution for the Moonridge Animal Park near Big Bear Lake). Hosted wonderfully by **2** himself, with a herd of dancers and singers that even brought in curious paying customers from outside the convention! Our thanks to **Rod and Mishi Basler** for organizing the performers (and providing the incredible make-up!), and to **Dawn Britt** and her sound and lighting and stage-tech crews for helping to pull off the show!

The Songs We Sang...

Once again the famous Furry Filk Song contest was held on Friday night at CaliFur, with the audience picking their favorite. And, once again, we're proud to present the winner here in our pages!

"Dog Heaven"
Words and Music by Rich Brown (c. 2004)

[Chorus:] When I die, send me to DOG HEAVEN,
Cuz dogs are so much better people than many people I know
The other day I sent another dog there,
And if I get my chance, that's where I'll go.

Another Scotty's made it to DOG HEAVEN.
Another Scotty's left this Earth and found a place to stay.
Where cats and puppies play -- and squirrels don't get away.
You can sleep all night -- then grab a bite --
And nap half of the day!

There's fresh green grass to dig up, or to roll in,
And puddles anywhere you'd want a drink
There's endless paths in case you feel like strollin' --
DOG HEAVEN's darn-near perfect, don't ya think?

[Chorus]

Might find your old Vet up in DOG HEAVEN, cuz
He loved dogs so much in life that's where he chose to
stay
He'll sit and watch you play -- Or stroke your fur all day.
The shots and pills -- for Earthly ills --
Are long since put away.

Each day at noon they have a rain of biscuits
Just stretch your neck and grab one from the air
There's one thing I can tell you without risk; it's
Dog-gone sure you're gonna love it there!

[Chorus]

When I'm old they'll "place me in a rest home" ...
No family visits me; to them, I might as well be dead.
But I won't mind... as long as there's a dog there,
Who'll slobber on me while I scratch his head.

Oh, everything's divine up in DOG HEAVEN,
Where any dog who wants it can be Alpha in her pack.
There's fresh steaks by the stack -- and bunnies you can
track.
Well, it's somewhere -- once you're there --
There's no coming back.

[Chorus]

It's dinner time at ten, and three, and seven,
With snacks between, just in case you care.
Someday soon I'm going to DOG HEAVEN ...
I've got some good friends waiting for me there.

[Chorus]

The Ursa Major Awards (for the Best in Anthropomorphics in 2003)

More formally known as the Annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Award, the Ursa Major Award is presented annually for excellence in the furry arts. It is intended as Anthropomorphic (a.k.a. Furry) Fandom's equivalent of the Hugo Award® presented by the World Science Fiction Society, mystery fandom's Anthony Award, horror fandom's Bram Stoker Award, and so forth. The Ursa Majors are administered by a dedicated group of fans, and presented by the Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Association (ALAA). Nominations for the awards are open to the public, and later ballots are made available by the ALAA. The physical award plaque was designed by **Heather Bruton**.

Eligibility in ten categories is for works featuring intelligent and/or talking animals first published during the calendar year in question (in this case, January through December of 2003). This can include new compilations of older works, such as a new collection of previously published separate works. The winners were chosen by popular vote from five finalists in each category. This year, the Ursa Major Awards were announced and presented at the C-ACE convention this last June in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

And the Ursa Major winners for 2003 were:

- ?? **Best Anthropomorphic Motion Picture – *Finding Nemo*** (Walt Disney/Pixar Films, released in May of 2003)
- ?? **Best Anthropomorphic Television Series – *Greg the Bunny*** (Grammet Productions/TNN-Spike TV)
- ?? **Best Anthropomorphic Novel – *Between Darkness and Light***, by Lisanne Norman (DAW Books)
- ?? **Best Anthropomorphic Short Story – "In the Line of Duty"**, by MCA Hogarth (in *Anthrolations #7*)
- ?? **Best Anthropomorphic Other Literary Work – *Best in Show: Fifteen Years of Outstanding Furry Fiction***, edited by Fred Patten (from Sofawolf Press)
- ?? **Best Anthropomorphic Comic Book – *Usagi Yojimbo***, by Stan Sakai (Dark Horse, monthly comic book)
- ?? **Best Anthropomorphic Comic Strip – *Kevin & Kell***, by Bill Holbrook (on-line daily comic strip)
- ?? **Best Anthropomorphic Fanzine – *Tails of the Tai Pan Universe*** (Published by Gene Bresears & others)
- ?? **Best Anthropomorphic Published Illustration – *Ursula Vernon*** for the front cover of *Best in Show* (published by Sofawolf Press)
- ?? **Best Anthropomorphic Game – *Wallace and Gromit in Project Zoo*** (designed by Frontier Developments Ltd. and published by BAM! Entertainment)

Congratulations to each of the winners! **Fred Patten** was on hand to accept his award at C-ACE on Friday night, and the rest of the winners were presented their awards later.

From the Ursa Major Awards staff: Our thanks to the many folks who helped to set up the awards, and our special thanks to everyone who sent in nominations or voted!

To find out more about the Ursa Major Awards, including how to make recommendations and nominations, visit www.ursamajorawards.org. Or, write to: The Ursa Major Awards, c/o Fred Patten, 11863 West Jefferson Boulevard, Culver City, California 90230-6322 to send recommendations or request more information. Official nominations will open on January 13th, 2005. Keep your eyes on the next issue of *In-Fur-Nation* for more about the Ursa Major Awards for 2004!

And here's a look at Coming Attractions...

More Furry Conventions All Around!

Here's a quick look at some of the many furry gatherings popping up around the country, and around the world... hopefully, we'll meet YOU at some of them ourselves!

Mephit Fur Meet

September 3 – 6 (Labor Day Weekend)
Holiday Inn Select Memphis Airport
Memphis, Tennessee

Special Guests this year include the artist known as **Rogminotaur**, and the musicians collectively known as **Sub Level 03!** Plus many more artists and dealers, of course, and several tracks of programming going at once.

The winners of the MFM 2004 T-shirt contest (front and back) have been chosen by the members! Visit the MFM web site to see the winning designs.

Returning for the third year to the The Holiday Inn Select Memphis Airport (2240 Democrat Road, Memphis, TN 38132), MFM is offering rooms at a rate of **\$89.00** per night for 1-4 people in the room. But hurry!

Registration for MFM 2004 is **\$40.00** at the door, currently. Check the web site for information on Sponsor rates, Super Sponsor rates, and daily rates. And of course, Supporting Memberships are always **\$15.00**. For more information about MFM 2004, visit their web site at www.mephitfurmeet.org.

Conifur Northwest 2003

The Dates: September 24-26, 2004
The Place: Sheraton Tacoma Convention Center
The Guests: **Chad Krueger**, Artist.
Edd Vick, Editor, Author, and Artist.

Hotel Info:
Back at the Sheraton Tacoma for a second year!
Official Website: <http://www.sheratontacoma.com/>
Telephone: (800) 325-3535
Room Rate: **\$99.00** per night

Tacoma now has a nice new light-rail system and a selection of local points of interest, including the Museum of Glass and Motorcycle Museum. We even have maps of the downtown area showing where the banks and places to eat are! When you make reservations, don't forget to tell them you're with Conifur. It will save you money AND help us make our room agreements!

Registration:
Pre-Registered: **\$40.00**
At The Door 3-Day: **\$45.00**
Friday Only: **\$25.00**
Saturday Only: **\$25.00**
Sunday Only: **\$20.00**
Non Attending: **\$15.00**
Sponsors: **\$100.00+**

Mail-in Registration can be sent to: Conifur Northwest, Attn: Registration Dept, 12819 SE 38th St, PMB 489, Bellevue,

WA 98006-1395. Or, you can register on-line at www.conifur.org.

Oklacon 2004

Formerly the Festival of the Feral, the newly-named annual American furry camping trip and convention returns to the center of the continent! Confirmed Special Guests include **2, the Ranting Gryphon; D'Bruin; and Windpaw Coyote**.

The convention will be held Halloween Weekend (October 28-31, 2004) at the Roman Nose State Park near Watonga, Oklahoma. Right now the con has openings for their con souvenir book, and they're holding a contest to design this year's convention T-shirt. Visit the web site to find out more!

Memberships are available for **\$20.00** now (Until October 1st) and **\$25.00** at the door. (Patron and Sponsor memberships are available too!).

From the Accommodations staff: "Upon registering you will be asked to inform us on your living arrangements. The first 160 registrations that are paid will be guaranteed free lodging in our A-frames which can hold up to 16 furs each. People interested in acquiring a private cabin, resort hotel room, or other accommodations off site should make these arrangements prior to the convention."

Check out www.oklacon.com for more information!

Howloween 2004

October 29-30th
Coquitlam, British Columbia

Best Western Convention Center
319 North Rd.
Coquitlam, BC
Canada, V3K 3V8
(604) 931-9011
Rooms are **\$99CDN** per night

Howloween is a furmeet for folks in Western Canada and the US - a relaxing place for anthropomorphic art, costuming, performing and animation enthusiasts from Western Canada and beyond to meet up for a couple of days and have some fun! There will be dances, a variety 'gong show', information sessions, artwork displays, and lots, lots more! And, since the meet is around Halloween-time, it's a great chance to run around in your costume!

Registration is **\$35CDN** Pre-Registration (before October 10) and **\$40CDN** at the door. More information can be found at www.howloween.org, or write to them at: Howloween, 714 Evans Place, Port Coquitlam, BC, Canada V3B 7M3.

Midwest FurFest

This year's Midwest FurFest will take place November 19th

– 21st, 2004, once again at The Hyatt Regency Woodfield (1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173. Telephone (847) 605-1234, Fax (847) 605 0328). Rooms are available for **\$89.00** per night.

The FurFest Guests of Honor this year are **David Gilbert** (Creator of the *Buckles* comic strip), **Ursula Vernon** (Award-winning artist), and **Jared "ScribbleFox" Ledger** (Costumer and Artist).

Pre-Registration is: **\$30.00** for Full Membership until September 30, 2003
\$100.00 for Sponsorship which includes meal with Guests of Honor and T-shirt, plus more!
\$40.00 after September 30, 2003, and at the door.

Please make checks payable to "Midwest Furfest". Mail Registration with payment to: Midwest Furry Fandom, P.O. Box 3561, Urbana, IL 61803. Or, check out their web site at www.furfest.org for more information on guests, events, activities, and more!

Well, that's all for now – and that's a lot! Here's hoping we'll get to see you again, and soon. But it's up to you! Keep up your subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* and keep up with the world of Furry Fandom! And don't forget to check out our new site at www.infurnation.com. See you! [Rod O'Riley, your ed-otter]

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Details Inside This Issue (in fact, the back of this very page)!

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